

SEASONABLE  
and Necessary  
WARNING

Concerning present  
DANGERS,  
and DUTIES,

From the  
COMMISSIONERS  
Of the  
GENERALL ASSEMBLY,

Unto all the  
MEMBERS

Of this  
K I R K.



EDINBURGH,  
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Excellent Majesty, 1650.

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25. Iunii, 1650. Postmeridie.

A seasonable and necessary VVarning concerning present dangers and duties, from the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, unto all the Members of this Kirk.

**I**F the eminencie of the danger and the necessity of our duty did not constrain us, we had rather chose to be silent then to emit any publick warning to the land within so few dayes of the meeting of the Generall Assembly; but we should not only run the hazard of just blame from them, but also be conscious to guiltinesse in our selves, if we did not in a time of so great strait, give warning to the Lords people both of their danger, and of their dutie.

The Insolent and strange a<sup>c</sup>tions of that prevailing party of Sectaries in *England* these yeares past, in reference to Religion and Government, are so well knowne, and have been so often and fully laid open in the former Warnings, Remonstrances, and Declarations of this Kirk, that we need not now take up much time in representing the same. Albeit the Reformation of the Church of *England*, and the advancing of

the work of Uniformity there, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government was the great dutie that the Lord called that Land unto, and which all the people of God in these three Kingdoms did ingage themselves in Covenant to endeavour to the utmost of their power; yet doth that work so much desired and longed for by all the lovers of *Sion* in these Nations, and all that concerns Religion, lye in the dust altogether forgotten and despised by those men, and in stead of the beaurty and order that should be in the house of God, a vast toleration of many grosse errors is allowed, whereby so many and so monstrous blasphemies and strange opinions in Religion have been broached and are vented in *England*, as the like hath not been heard of almost in any generation. And though Monarchy and the Power of Parliaments was the ancient and long continued Government of that Kingdom, yet have those men usurped above the Parliament whose servants they were, and by open violence driven away many, and imprisoned some of the Members thereof, and have not onely taken away the house of Lords and destroyed the late King, but also subverted Monarchy it selfe, and turned the Foundations upside down, and labour to wreath the yoke of their oppression upon the necks of our brethren in *England*; not only in regard of that which concerns their bodies and estates, but also in regard of that which concerns their soules and consciences, whereof that Ingagement that is now pressed in *England* is a present and publick testimony, being a sore bondage under which many in that land now groane; whose case and sufferings for the work of God we desire, not onely to remember dayly before the Lord in our prayers and supplications, but in every thing to regard it as if it were our own: being confident that such as love the truth, & cleave to the Covenant in these Lands, shall obtain mercy of God to be faithfull in the midst of temptations, and that the Lord will

will not suffer them to be tempted above that they are able to bear, but will give unto them the issue with the temptation.

This party alter that they have acted such things in *England*, and also sore afflicted and oppressed our brethren in *Ireland*, now conceiving that they cannot be established, and that they cannot eat the fruit of their own devices without contradiction, as long as the Kirk and Kingdome of *Scotland* stands in their way, threaten us with a warre, by drawing their Forces Northward, and sending them in small parties towards the Border, that it may be the lesse discerned what they intend to do: And if the Lord in his righteous and wise dispensation shall suffer them to invade this Land, as it is to be feared, that the Gangrene of their errors may take hold upon men of ignorant and unstable mindes, who have not received the love of the truth; So may we, if they prevaile, look for confusion and desolation, and that the Pillars both of Religion and Government shall be ruined and razed in this, as well as in our neighbour land. It doth therefore in the first place concern all the Inhabitants in this Nation to draw neare to God, and to mourn for their own iniquities, and for all the ignorance and prophanity and backsliding that is in the land, and to studie to make peace with God in Jesus Christ: The continuance and increate of many of those sinnes, for which formerly we seemed to have been humbled, doth doubtlesse grieve the Spirit of God, and may if they be not speedily and sincerely repented of, and forsaken, provoke him to give us over to the lust of our adversaries; Our King, our Princes, our Nobles, our Pastors, teachers, and people have sinned; *Let us therefore search and try our wayes, and turn again to the Lord: Let us lift up our hearts with our hands to God in the heavens, that he may spare and save his people, that they be not a prey to the enemy.*

In the next place, As the Parliament of this Kingdome  
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have taken care for putting the land in a Posture of Defence, so we hope that none shall be so negligent of their duty, and so insensible of their danger, as not to give chearfull obedience to the lawfull commands of their superiours in those things that concern the security of Religion, and peace of the Kingdome, and that are necessary for the defence of the cause and of their native country; but that every man in his station and calling will willingly and cheerfully acquit himselfe in the diligent and faithfull performance of all the duties that relate unto those ends.

It is far from our meaning that any who are tainted with Malignancie and Disaffection to the work of God, should be allowed or permitted to associate or joyn themselves together by parties in Armes, much lesse do we mean that we should associate and joyn with them, or that they should be employed or made use of, or countenanced or permitted to be in our Armies. The Lord hath so far cleared his mind both by his word and works against these things, that they are very blind who are not convinced herein; and we have made so solemn publick confession of this sin that relates unto Malignants, and so solemnly engaged our selves against the same, that they among us, who should again hazard upon it, should seem to be desperately perverse: It were not only to give great ground of encouragement to the Sectaries, before whom Malignants have already so often fled and fallen, but to discourage the hearts, and weaken the hands of men of Integrity and godlinesse, who could hardly expect a blessing in the fellowship of such; nay, it were from the words of our own former Confession and Ingagement unto duties, to proclaim a judgment against the land, till it were consumed without remedy. Wee are therefore bold in the Lords name to warne the Honourable Estates of Parliament, and all whom it concerns in the land, that they may be

be farre from such a thing, and that they may take care in their respective places and Stations, to purge Judicatories, and Committees of all scandalous and disaffected men, and speedily and effectually to goe about the removing and purging out from the Army all men of a scandalous conversation, and of questionable integrity and affection in the cause of God, and that they imploy none but such as are of a blamelesse conversation, and of approven Integrity in the Lords work: It shall be a shame for any in this land, to be so faithlesse and unbelieving, as because of the scarcenesse of men to make use of others, then such as are thus qualified. The Lord hath not only spoken it in his word, and verified it in his works in the dayes of old, but hath let us see it with our own eyes, that it is all one with him to save with few or with many, and that a few, whom God will countenance, are more worth then many against whom he hath a controversie.

It needs not be matter of stumbling or terrour unto any, that the army of Sectaries go masked under a vale of seeming holinesse, and that their interprises and designes have been so long and so often attended with successe: These who know them well, will acknowledge that many of them are loose and dissolute in their way, and though some of them walk more circumspectlie, yet how can they be accounted truly tender & Godly, who love to walk in the Imaginations of their own hearts, and in the light of their own fire, and in the sparkes that they have kindled, corrupting the truth of God, approving errors in themselves, and tolerating them in others; and who having power in their hands, labour only to establish fastie for themselves, altogether neglecting those things that concerne the Honour of God, and the Kingdome of his Sonne Iesus Christ: If any of them have any thing of the seed of God in them, it cannot but be much blasted with the wind of their own vaine inventions, and choaked and kept down



down with the tares of their corruptions : These who shall compare their proceedings with the word of God, and the Solemn League and Covenant, or look to the effects that followes thereupon either to Religion or government, or to the bodies or soules of men, shall finde that notwithstanding of any pretext, their way is much to be detested and abhorred. Neither doth the Lord spare to execute judgement against seducers and corrupters of the truth, because they seeme not to be subject to personall out-breakings in their lives; Is it not the ground of the great threatnings against Antichrist, that he makes many drunk with the cup of his abominations, which yet for most part are covered with a vail of externall deuotions? And can the many antichrists now in *England* eschew to partake of his plagues, who in so great a measure partake of his sinne.

The successe of that partie proves not the goodnes of their cause, or that they shall prosper still; The Lord who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working hath been pleased to put the rod of his anger, and the staff of his indignation in their hand, for executing of his wrath against malignants, because of the enmity & opposition of that generation unto the cause and people of God: But if they shall invade this land, and exalt themselves against the Lords inheritance, and the people that are in Covenant with him, For whose sake the Lord did clothe them with power for a time, for taking vengeance upon his enemies, Then shall they stumble and fall, and be broken in pieces: Though the host of *Senachirib* did preuaile against *Samarina*, yet did they fall in *Judah*, and he did return with shame and was slaine with the sword in his own land. That partie hath as yet no cause to boast that God hath prospered them in armes against the Covenant, or against a praying people stedfast in the Lords cause, following his way, and waiting upon him for help and successe: All their en-  
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counter have hitherto bin against Malignants; & now the Lord having performed so much of his work against that generation, who knowes but the Sectaries day may also be coming, and that when the state of the question shal be changed, God may turn his hand upon them, & bring upon them the judgments of a broken Covenant, as he hath ever don to al that look that way.

We desire that not only others, but the Sectaries themselves may consider, that when *England* was very low, and well nigh brought under the feet of the popish, prelaticall and Malignant partie, That this Nation was then much solicited for their assistance and reliefe, and even by some of these who have since that time been verie active and instrumentall for the partie which now prevails in that land: The Kirk and Kingdome of *Scotland* were then so compassionate of their brethrens condition, that they were willing to joyn in a League and Covenant with them, which both Kingdomes even many of those who are now in the Army did solemnly swear and subscribe: In prosecution of the ends thereof, this Kingdome did send into *England* a considerable army, by whose assistance the power of the Malignant partie was broken and brought low, and the Parliament & army of *England* put in such a condition, that they needed no more fear the strength of their enemies. This league and Covenant which was the foundation of *Englands* and the Armies deliverance and lastie, the armie hath now forgotten and trodden under foot, and walk in all their proceedings no lesse contrary thereto, then darknesse is unto light: Neither doth it satisfie them to do so in their own land, but they threaten us also with warre, for no other reason, but because we cleave to our dutie in these things, to which *England* stands no lesse obliged unto by Covenant before the Lord then we doe. We may confidently assert and professe before the world, that the Lords people in this land are not conscious to

themselves of any wrong done to that prevailing partie in  
*England* : The engagement in the year. 1648. was no lesse  
 abhorred, and testified against by the Kirk of *Scotland*, and by  
 these that are now in place and power in the State, and by  
 all the godlie in the land, Then it was by that partie them-  
 selves; Which did so farre convince the House of Commons  
 That in their letter to the Generell Assemblie of this Kirk  
 in the same yeare, They proteste that they are assured, that  
 these Impions and unwarrantable actions cannot be done  
 with the approbation and assent of the Religious and well  
 affected people of the Kingdom of *Scotland*, and that they do  
 understand, that there are very few amongst these who were  
 in the engagement against them that first engaged with them  
 in the Covenant and cause, but such as are professed enemies  
 to them, how ever they were then content to proceed therunto  
 that they might be the better decieve the people of *England*,  
 And that therefore they are unwilling to impute such evils  
 to this Nation in Generall: It is known how many fervent  
 prayers and supplications were powred out in this Land be-  
 fore the Lord against that engagement, and we think wee may  
 without boasting say, that those prayers had as much influ-  
 ence upon the defeat thereof, as all the power of that armie;  
 And since that time that engagement hath been publickly  
 disavowed, disclaimed and repealed by the Parliament of  
 this Kingdom. Neither hath that party any thing to chal-  
 lenge us concerning Malignants, both Kirk and State having  
 constantly followed, and being still about their duties against  
 them, without conniving at, or complying with them  
 in their courses. It is true that this Kingdom and Kirk  
 have protested and testified against the proceedings of Secta-  
 ries in reference to Religion and Government; Which we  
 could not but do, unlesse we had forgotten our duty, and  
 the Christian mutuall eyes that lie upon us, not onely as  
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sister Churches, but as Covenanted Churches, and so make our selves partakers of their sins, and exposed our selves to the hazard of their plagues. We in this Land being therefore conscious to our selves of nothing but durie; If they shall invade us fortollowing the same, Shall not G O D look upon it and avenge it?

Whilst we incite men to their duty in the defence of the Kingdom against invasion, and encourage them in performance of the same, We desire not to be mistaken, or that any should so far misconstrue our meaning, as though we did thereby intend to stir up unto, or approve of an invasion of the Kingdom of *England*, or an engagement in war against the same. In relation to peace or war in these Nations, we cannot but very much commend and approve the resolutions, of the Parliament of this Kingdom, exprest in their Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> of *March* to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and Instructions sent therewith to their Commissioners 1649. and now again renewed in another Letter to the same Speaker of the House of Commons, wherein they acknowledge their obligations, and declare their resolutions to observe the rule of remonstrating first the breaches of peace, of craving just reparations, of using all fair means, of giving a preceding warning of three moneths before any engagement in these Kingdoms in war, And do hold forth this way of procedour in clearing each others, and dealing plainly, as agreeable, not onely to particular Treaties, and to the many Tyes, Bands, and Declarations past betwixt the Kingdoms, but also to the Law of G O D, and practise of His people in his word, and to the common law & practise of heathen nations, much more Christian Covenanted Kingdoms; And plainly profess their confidence, that the Covenanted G O D of these Kingdoms, who did take order with these of this Nation, who did unlawfully engage against *England*, in the year 1648.

doth still live and reign, and will bring shame and ruine upon whatsoever partie in either of these Nations, that without a necessary cause and clear calling, and without observance of the aforesaid rules and order shall offend, and invade the other Nation: In all which we do agree with them in our judgments and resolutions, and conceive that the whole Land is bound to tread the same steps, and to walk according to the same rules.

Albeit we be diligently to take heed of the danger that threatens from Sectaries, and faithfully to bestir our selves in our places and stations in the use of all lawfull and necessary means for preventing of the same: Yet are we not to forget, but also with the same diligence and care to take heed of these dangers and snares that threaten the worke and people of God from Malignants. Malignancie though a very evill weed, yet is not pluckt up, but still continues to be one of the raging sins of this Land, it being the snare, wherewith loose hearts, who cannot endure Christs yoke are most readily taken. Hence it is that there be still many of that stamp in all the three kingdoms, who drawing encouragements to themselves, from the influence they have upon the Kings Counsell, and hardening themselves in their way, by the proceedings of Sectaries, do still follow their former designes, and wait for their day, and would rejoyce in the ruine or halting of these, who adhere to the Covenant: And experience proves that many of these who have seemed to repent of, and abandon that way, yet do not really shake off that sin, that hangs so fast on, but upon new temptations fall again upon that same wickednesse, and prove worse then of before; which may be a caution to us not suddenly to trust them. We make no doubt, but that Malignants will by all means endeavour that there may be room left for them to undermine the work and people of God, and engage the Kingdom in a new war, upon terms of their devising

vising, destructive to Religion and the Covenant.

In reference to dangers upon the right hand and upon the left, besides any dutie already represented to us : We conceive it incumbent to us, seriously to recommend the following particulars to all the Land, especially to these that are in trust, either in Judicatories or Armies.

1. First to watch and pray that in nothing they be deceived, or come short of the duty, whereunto the Lord calls them in a time of so many temptations and great difficulties.

2. Every one would labour not only for the knowledge of the truth, but to have the power and love thereof engraven on their hearts, that they may from an inward principle of grace and spirituall life avoid error, and all the snares which lead thereunto, and be encouraged to contend earnestly for the Faith, which G O D hath been pleased to deliver to his Kirk in this Land.

3. Not only is open Malignancie to be avoided, but men would watch that enmitie against the work and people of G O D, which ordinarily is the birth of jealousy and discontent and of familiar conversing with such as are disaffected to or lukewarm in the cause of G O D, steal not into their hearts, and gain not upon their affections by degrees; Experience almost of all backsliding times and persons hath proven, that the fellowship of men of a disaffected or lukewarm temper, blunts the edge of tendernesse and zeal, and steals away the heart, first from honest instruments, and then from the cause it self : There have been and are still some in the Land, who in a cunning way of insinuation foment jealousies, and act divisions, whilst they seem to be friends to the Cause, and by this means do more harm then others by open violence; These we would mark and avoid them, that we may neither endanger our selves, nor give offence unto others, nor prejudice the Cause of G O D.

4. We would take diligent heed, that in nothing we recede from the just and necessary desires of this Kirk and Kingdom, propounded to his Majesty for securing of Religion and settling the peace of the Kingdom; But that we cleave closely to our former resolutions in those things: If we remit and grow slack, and yeeld in any of them, as it shall increate the hopes and endeavours of carnall and disaffected men, so shall it provoke G O D against us to leave us to our selves, till we be plunged in a pit of backsliding.

5. It concerns us to take heed that we do not tread the steps of those, who carried on the late unlawfull engagement against the Kingdom of *England* in any thing already condemned by this Kirk and Kingdom, especially to beware of changing the state of our Cause, or altering the matter of our quarrell, either by laying aside of G O D S interest and taking up of mans, or by preferring or equalling mans interest unto G O D S: This were to turn upside down the whole tenour of our Principles and procedors, and not only to spoyl us of all the comfort we can look for from our Covenant, but also to bring upon our selves the guilt and reproach of all the sin of those, who carried on that engagement, so much condemned and born testimony against in this Land.

6. We would beware of losing the advantage of defenders, seeing our strength most consists in the equity and clearnesse of the Cause, and the holy and righteous way in pursuing of the same: It shall be better for us, rather to endure straits for a time, then by precipitating and making hast in the dark, to rush against the wall, and spoil our selves of that peace and comfort, which we may have in waiting till G O D go before us.

7. We desire that all the Land may be still pouring out their prayers and supplications before G O D, that the Kings Majesty may really and wholly abandon all Malignant principles.



principles and Counsells, and joyn cordially in the Covenant and Cause of G O D.

8. As all the people of G O D throughout the Land would be carefull to discern of dangers and avoid snares from, and compliances with both Sectaries and Malignants, so would Ministers be diligent and faithfull in prelsing of these duties, and that in a solide and convincing way, and labour to make it appear that they speak not against the one or the other from passion or interest, but upon the grounds of divine reason, and from the light and authority of G O D S Word; that so they may make themselves manifest to the consciences of their hearers, and stop the mouths of gainfayers.

Finally all the inhabitants of the Land would be aware of pride and carnall confidence, and in a humble way would wait upon the L O R D, and tread the steps of holinesse and righteoufnesse, and he who hath done great things for us, shall yet save us.

A. K E R.

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